

Stylonurus

Stylonurus is a genus of prehistoric eurypterid of the family Stylonuridae. The genus contains three species; *Stylonurus powriensis* from the Devonian of Scotland, *Stylonurus shaffneri* from the Devonian of Pennsylvania and *Stylonurus perspicillum* from the Devonian of Germany.^[1]

The assignment of *S. perspicillum* and *S. shaffneri* to the genus is doubtful. A previously assigned species, *S. ensiformis*, is today regarded as synonymous with *S. powriensis*.^[1]

Description

Stylonurids, which lived from the Ordovician to Lower Permian periods, were small to very large forms with scales developing into tubercles and knobs. The prosoma (head) exhibited variable shape, with arcuate compound eyes located subcentrally, or anteriorly. Their abdomens were slender. Their walking legs were long and powerful, sometimes characterized by spines. Most genera did not have swimming legs.^[2]

Stylonurus is distinguishable from other stylonurids by their smooth surface, and the greatly elongated 5th (last) pair of walking legs, which reached as far as the telson, which was long and styliform. The prosoma (head) varied from semiovate to subrectangular.^[2]

References

1. Dunlop, J. A., Penney, D. & Jekel, D. 2015. A summary list of fossil spiders and their relatives. In World Spider Catalog. Natural History Museum Bern, online at <http://wsc.nmbe.ch>, version 16.0

2. STØRMER, L 1955. Merostomata. *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology, Part P Arthropoda 2, Chelicerata*, P: 36.

See also

<i>Stylonurus</i>											
Temporal range: Devonian											
PreЄ	Є	O	S	D	C	P	T	J	K	PgN	
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Restoration of <i>S. powriensis</i> .											
Scientific classification											
Kingdom:		Animalia									
Phylum:		Arthropoda									
Subphylum:		Chelicerata									
Order:		†Eurypterida									
Superfamily:		†Stylonuroidea									
Family:		†Stylonuridae									
Genus:		† <i>Stylonurus</i> <div>Page, 1856</div>									
Type species											
<i>Stylonurus powriensis</i> <div>Page, 1856</div>											
Other species											
<div><div><div>■</div><div><i>?S. perspicillum</i> Størmer, 1969</div></div><div><div>■</div><div><i>?S. shaffneri</i> Willard, 1933</div></div></div>											

<http://www.wsc.nmbe.ch/resources/fossils/Fossils16.0.pdf> (PDF).

2. STØRMER, L 1955. Merostomata. *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology, Part P Arthropoda 2, Chelicerata*, P: 36.

See also

- List of eurypterids

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